Experts Rule Out 2d Gun In Robert Kennedy Death

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LOS ANGELES, Oct. 6—More than seven years after the assassination of Senator Robert F. Kennedy, a panel of firearms experts has unanimously agreed that there is no evidence to suggest that a second gun, in addition to the convicted assassin's weapon, was fired in the killing on June 5, 1968.

However, the seven-member panel, in a three-page "comprehensive joint report" released by a state court today, said that it had been unable to determine whether three of the bullets it examined were fired from the pistol used by Sirhan B. Sirhan, the convicted assassin. The experts said that the deterioration of the bullets over the years had made identification impossible.

Postponents of the so-called "second-gun theory" considered the identification of two of the three bullets crucial in determining whether anyone besides Mr. Sirhan fired a weapon in the Ambassador Hotel pantry that night.

The two bullets — one removed from Senator Kennedy's body and one taken from another victim—showed in ballistics tests what some investigators have said are apparent differences in the identifying markings left by a gun barrel. The inability of experts to say positively whether all three bullets came from the Sirhan gun appeared to leave unanswered at least one question raised by some observers.

The re-testing of the evidence in the Sirhan case was ordered on Aug. 14 by Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Robert A. Wenke on a request by Paul Schrade, a former United Auto Workers official who was injured in the shooting, and the CBS television network, which

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is planning a documentary on the assassination investigation.

Two weeks ago, the panel began testing the evidence in secret in a jury room filled with scientific equipment. Each expert conducted a separate series of tests, and on Saturday each turned over to the judge his own sealed report along with the joint report.

Shortly after the experts' reports were made public today, several of those who had been involved in the re-examination proceedings indicated they would need time to study each report in detail before making comments on the panel's conclusions.

Meldon Levine, attorney for Mr. Schrade, said he would reserve comment on the experts' findings until a news conference tomorrow morning. Mr. Levine indicated that although the panel's report presumed a conclusion that only one gun had been used, his client would not accept that conclusion without studying each report in detail.

Thomas Krantz, a lawyer who represented the district attorney's office in the retesting, said that he had expected the inconclusive matching of the evidence to Mr. Sirhan's gun. He said that although he hoped the panel's findings would end speculation about a conspiracy, he realized that there were several other theories in addition to the second-gun theory.

Sirhan's Attorney Comments

Mr. Sirhan's attorney, Godfrey Isaac, said that he was now "forced to believe there was only one gun" fired, and would be concerned with no future legal proceedings in connection with the second gun on behalf of his client.

The climax of the retesting by seven of top firearms experts in the country, who were flown here at county expense, came on Sept. 26 when, in the only test performed publicly, four test bullets were fired from the Sirhan gun into a six-foot-high water tank.

Presumably, experts made a microscopic comparison of the test bullets and bullets retrieved from the assassination scene. However, it was learned today that the panel fired the gun twice more in private, and compared eight, rather than four, test bullets. No reasons were given for the additional tests.

The test was considered somewhat of a milestone in the case since critics of the police investigation have insisted for years that the refiring was a simple way to end second-gun theory speculation.